



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

January 25, 2005

## **ICE ARRESTS MAN FOR ILLEGALLY PRACTICING MEDICINE IN THE UNITED STATES**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico- A citizen of Mexico who allegedly acted as the principal health officer at a local health clinic was arrested here Friday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents following an ICE worksite enforcement investigation.

The ICE investigation revealed that Francisco Bravo-Bravo, 34, allegedly worked as the principal health officer at the Salud y Vida Health Clinic in San Juan, Puerto Rico since 2002. Bravo-Bravo was practicing medicine at the clinic without the required license to practice in the United States and without the proper work authorization documents.

Further investigation by ICE revealed that Bravo-Bravo allegedly used medicine products that were not approved for use in the United States by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Bravo-Bravo was arrested after ICE agents conducted an inspection at the Salud y Vida Health Clinic and found that he did not possess an employment authorization card to legally work in the United States. It is alleged that he would enter the United States routinely with a tourist visa, remaining in the U.S. up to six months at a time.

Salud y Vida is a multi-national company with offices in Mexico, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. The institution allegedly provides programs for weight loss, stress control and diabetes.

“This man showed a flagrant disregard for our laws,” said Lydia St. John-Mellado, special agent-in-charge of ICE in Puerto Rico. “Not only did he work without proper authorization, but more alarming, he put the lives of others in danger by practicing the medical profession without the required license.”

Bravo-Bravo was placed in removal proceedings and is in ICE custody at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico.

#ICE#

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*